



## MEMORANDUM

November 17, 2020

### VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Swimming and Diving Conference Commissioners, Head Coaches and Registered Officials.

FROM: Greg Lockard, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Rules Review and Clarifications

### **Rules Process:**

The NCAA swimming and diving rules change process occurs every two years, and will begin in January 2021, with a call for suggested discussion items for consideration. A non-binding survey will be distributed to the entire NCAA membership, and the results will be discussed at the College Swimming Coaches Convention, followed by consideration for adoption by the NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Committee in May 2021. Newly adopted rules will be included in the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 rules book that will be published in September 2021.

### **Rule Waiver - Spectators (Rule 9):**

"Time standards, consideration standards and optional-entry standards for swimming (individual and relay) events and diving events must be achieved in bona fide competition. Bona fide competition is defined as an event that conforms to all NCAA rules relevant to swimming and diving performances."

The first component of Rule 9 states: "Meet is open to the public (spectators)".

In response to the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Committee has elected to waive this component of Rule 9 (Bona Fide Competition) for the remainder of the 2020-2021 swimming and diving season.

As a result of this waiver, all non-championships and non-NCAA Championships may be held without spectators.

### **Interpretation – USA Swimming Meets (Rule 9):**

"Bona fide competition is defined as an event that conforms to all NCAA rules relevant to swimming and diving performances, including the following:

- Meet is open to the public (spectators);
- Competition is between two or more teams of the same gender at the same time and site, from different collegiate institutions;
- All NCAA competitors must be eligible by NCAA standards;
- Meets must be in institutions' approved competition schedule;
- Meets must have published results; and

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- Depending on the governing body, meet official(s) must be qualified and/or certified.
- Or
- Any bona fide meet as defined above and that is sanctioned or approved by USA Swimming and USA Diving that follows NCAA rules and regulations.”

The following USA Swimming and Diving Meets are acceptable for achievement of *time standards, consideration standards and optional-entry standards*:

- USA Swimming National Championship,
- USA Swimming Winter Open Championship,
- FINA Short Course World Championship, and
- USA Swimming Pro Series Meets.

**Rule Confirmation – Backup Timers:**

“Regardless of the availability of automatic and/or semiautomatic timing equipment, a minimum of one human timer per lane and one manual watch per lane is required for all non-NCAA championships meets and is recommended for all non-championships meets. In addition, for an NCAA championship qualification standard, two human timers, each with a manual watch, are required if there is a malfunction with priority level one or two equipment.” (Rule 4-16-2)

**Rule Confirmation – Lane Assignments:**

“For dual meets, the visiting team shall have its choice of odd or even lanes. Once made, this choice applies to all swimming events on the program.” (Rule 5-6-1)

**Note: Seeding one team in lanes 1-4 and the other team in lanes 5-8 is not permitted.**

**Rule Clarification - Virtual Meets:**

Based on a decision by NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs (AMA) staff at the national office, which regulates NCAA bylaws, including countable competition and sport sponsorship, virtual competition does NOT count toward individual and team dates of competition or sport sponsorship.

In addition, virtual meets do not meet bona fide competition per playing rule 9 as stated below:

- “Competition is between two or more teams of the same gender at the same time and site, from different collegiate institutions;”

Please send any questions by email to me, Greg Lockard ([greg@swimdiverules.com](mailto:greg@swimdiverules.com)). Relevant questions and clarifications will be communicated to the membership.

The dates and locations for the 2021 NCAA Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving championships are as follows:

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- Division II Men and Women – Birmingham, Alabama (March 17-20, 2021)
- Division III Men and Women – Federal Way, Washington (March 17-20, 2021)
- Division I Women – Greensboro, North Carolina (March 17-20, 2021)
- Division I Men – Greensboro, North Carolina (March 24-27, 2021)

GL:bb

cc: NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Committee  
Selected NCAA Staff Members